



Eigenvalues and eigenvectors assignment for neutral type systems

Katerina V. Sklyar, Rabah Rabah, Grigory M. Sklyar

► To cite this version:

Katerina V. Sklyar, Rabah Rabah, Grigory M. Sklyar. Eigenvalues and eigenvectors assignment for neutral type systems. *Comptes Rendus. Mathématique*, 2013, 351 (3–4), pp.91–95. 10.1016/j.crma.2013.02.007 . hal-00788702

HAL Id: hal-00788702

<https://hal.science/hal-00788702>

Submitted on 15 Feb 2013

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors assignment for neutral type systems

Katerina Sklyar^a, Rabah Rabah^b, Grigory Sklyar^a

^a*Institute of Mathematics, University of Szczecin
Wielkopolska 15, 70-451 Szczecin, Poland*

^b*IRCCyN/École des Mines de Nantes
4 rue Alfred Kastler, BP 44307 Nantes, France*

Abstract

For a class of linear neutral type systems the problem of eigenvalues and eigenvectors assignment is investigated, i.e. finding the system which has the given spectrum and almost all, in some sense, eigenvectors. The result is used for the analysis of the critical number of solvability of a vector moment problem.

Résumé

Placement de valeurs propres et de vecteurs propres pour un système avec retard de type neutre Pour une classe de systèmes linéaire avec retards de type neutre, on étudie le problème de placement de valeurs et de vecteurs propres à un nombre de vecteurs près. Le résultat est utilisé pour analyser l'intervalle critique de solvabilité d'un problème de moments vectoriel.

Version française abrégée

L'un des problème centraux de la théorie du contrôle est le placement de spectre : placement de valeurs propres mais aussi de vecteurs propres ou de structure spectrale. Nous considérons ce type de problèmes pour des systèmes linéaires avec retards de type neutre (1). Le problème de placement de vecteurs et valeurs propres se ramène de fait au problème de placement de valeurs et vecteurs singuliers pour une matrice $\Delta(\lambda)$ (2) dont les éléments sont des fonctions entières. Ces éléments spectraux sont quadratiquement proches des éléments spectraux de l'équation pour le cas $L = 0$. Ces derniers étant entièrement exprimées par la structure spectrale de la matrice A_{-1} .

Email addresses: sklar@univ.szczecin.pl (Katerina Sklyar),
Rabah.Rabah@mines-nantes.fr (Rabah Rabah), sklar@univ.szczecin.pl
(Grigory Sklyar).

Dans le présent article nous étudions le problème inverse suivant :

Quelles conditions doivent satisfaire un ensemble de nombre complexes $\{\lambda\}$ pour être les racines de l'équation caractéristique $\det \Delta(\lambda) = 0$ et une famille de vecteurs pour constituer le noyau de la matrice $\Delta(\lambda)$ correspondant à l'équation (1) pour un choix particulier de matrices $A_{-1}, A_2(\theta), A_3(\theta)$?

En fait le noyau à droite (ou le noyau à gauche) de la matrice $\Delta(\lambda)$ est lié directement aux vecteurs propres du système (1) représentés sous la forme (3) dans l'espace de Hilbert $M_2 = \mathbb{C}^n \times L_2([-1, 0], \mathbb{C}^n)$. Après une description détaillée des propriétés spectrales du système (3) on abouti à une caractérisation des familles de valeurs propres et vecteurs propres réalisables par un choix des matrices $A_{-1}, A_2(\theta), A_3(\theta)$.

Théorème 0.1 *Soit μ_1, \dots, μ_n des nombres complexes distincts et z_1, \dots, z_n une famille libre de \mathbb{C}^n . Pour $\tilde{\lambda}_k^m = \ln |\mu_m| + i(\text{Arg } \mu_m + 2\pi k)$, $m = 1, \dots, n$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, on considère un ensemble arbitraire de nombre complexes distincts $\{\lambda_k^m\} \cup \{\lambda_j^0\}_{j=1, \dots, n}$ tel que $\sum_k |\lambda_k^m - \tilde{\lambda}_k^m|^2 < \infty$, $m = 1, \dots, n$ et un ensemble arbitraire de vecteurs $\{w_k^m\} \cup \{w_j^0\}$ satisfaisant $\sum_k \|w_k^m - z_m\|^2 < \infty$, $m = 1, \dots, n$. Alors il existe des matrices $A_{-1}, A_2(\theta), A_3(\theta)$ telles que :*

- i) les nombres $\{\lambda_k^m, \lambda_j^0\}$ sont les racines simples de l'équation $\det \Delta(\lambda) = 0$;*
- ii) $w_k^{m*} \Delta(\lambda_k^m) = 0, m = 1, \dots, n; k \in \mathbb{Z}$ et $w_j^{0*} \Delta(\lambda_j^0) = 0, j = 1, \dots, n$; sauf peut être un nombre fini de vecteurs w_k^m à la place desquels on obtient des vecteurs \hat{w}_k^m arbitrairement proches.*

Ce résultat permet également la résolution d'un problème de moments vectoriel exprimé par les relations (11) et, plus précisément, de quantifier l'intervalle $(0, T_0)$ pour lequel le problème est solvable. Cet intervalle est lié à l'indice de contrôlabilité d'une paire (A_{-1}, B) induite par le problème (cf. [3]).

1 Introduction

One of central problems in control theory is the spectral assignment problem. It is important to emphasize that the problem means the assignment of not only eigenvalues, but also eigenvectors or (in general) some geometric eigenstructure.

Our purpose is to investigate this kind of problems for a large class of neutral type systems given by the equation

$$\dot{z}(t) - A_{-1}\dot{z}(t-1) = Lz(t+\cdot), \quad t \geq 0, \quad (1)$$

where $Lf(\cdot) = \int_{-1}^0 [A_2(\theta)\dot{f}(\theta) + A_3(\theta)f(\theta)] d\theta$, $f(\theta) \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $A_{-1}, A_2(\cdot), A_3(\cdot)$ are $n \times n$ matrices. The elements of A_2 and A_3 are in $L^2(-1, 0)$.

It is well known [2] that the spectral properties of this system are described

by the characteristic matrix $\Delta(\lambda)$ given by

$$\Delta(\lambda) = \lambda I - \lambda e^{-\lambda} A_{-1} - \int_{-1}^0 [\lambda e^{\lambda\theta} A_2(\theta) - e^{\lambda\theta} A_3(\theta)] d\theta. \quad (2)$$

In fact the problem of assignment of eigenvalues and eigenvectors is reduced to a problem of assignment of singular values and degenerating vectors of the entire matrix value function $\Delta(\lambda)$. It is remarkable [4,5] that the roots of $\det \Delta(\lambda) = 0$ are quadratically close to a fixed set of complex numbers which are the logarithms of eigenvalues of the matrix A_{-1} . Moreover, the degenerating vectors of $\Delta(\lambda_k)$ are also quadratically close to the eigenvectors of A_{-1} .

In this paper we investigate an inverse problem:

What conditions must satisfy a sequence of complex numbers $\{\lambda\}$ and a sequence of vectors in order to be a sequence of roots for the characteristic equation $\det \Delta(\lambda) = 0$ and a sequence of degenerating vectors for the characteristic matrix $\Delta(\lambda)$ of equation (1) respectively for some choice of matrices $A_{-1}, A_2(\theta), A_3(\theta)$?

The result obtained for this problem allows to precise the critical interval for the solvability of a vector moment problem. Namely this critical interval is given by the controllability index of a couple (A_{-1}, B) related to the moment problem (as considered in [3]).

2 The operator representation and the spectral equation

As it is shown in [4,5] the system in question can be rewritten in the operator form

$$\frac{d}{dt} (y, z_t(\cdot)) = \mathcal{A} (y, z_t(\cdot)), \quad (3)$$

where $z_t(\cdot) = z(t + \cdot)$ and $\mathcal{A} : D(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow M_2 = \mathbb{C}^n \times L_2([-1, 0], \mathbb{C}^n)$,

$$D(\mathcal{A}) = \left\{ (y, \varphi(\cdot)) \mid \varphi(\cdot) \in H^1([-1, 0], \mathbb{C}^n), y = \varphi(0) - A_{-1}\varphi(-1) \right\},$$

and the operator \mathcal{A} is given by formula $\mathcal{A} (y, \varphi(\cdot)) = \left(L\varphi(\cdot), \frac{d\varphi}{d\theta}(\cdot) \right)$. This operator is denoted by $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ instead of \mathcal{A} if $A_2(\theta) = A_3(\theta) \equiv 0$. The operator $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ is defined on the same domain $D(\mathcal{A})$. One can consider the operator \mathcal{A} as a perturbation of the operator $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$, namely $\mathcal{A} (y, \varphi(\cdot)) = \tilde{\mathcal{A}} (y, \varphi(\cdot)) + (L\varphi(\cdot), 0)$. Let $\mathcal{B}_0 : \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow M_2$ be given by $\mathcal{B}_0 y = (y, 0)$, and $\mathcal{P}_0 : D(\mathcal{A}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$ by $\mathcal{P}_0 (y, \varphi(\cdot)) = L\varphi(\cdot)$. Then $\mathcal{A} = \tilde{\mathcal{A}} + \mathcal{B}_0 \mathcal{P}_0$. Denote by $X_{\mathcal{A}}$ the set $D(\mathcal{A})$ endowed with the graph norm. The operator \mathcal{P}_0 browses the set of all linear bounded operators $\mathcal{L}(X_{\mathcal{A}}, \mathbb{C}^n)$ as $A_2(\cdot), A_3(\cdot)$ run over the set of $n \times n$ matrices with components from $L_2[-1, 0]$. Indeed, an arbitrary linear operator Q from $\mathcal{L}(X_{\mathcal{A}}, \mathbb{C}^n)$

can be presented as $Q(y, \varphi(\cdot)) = Q_1(\varphi(0) - A_{-1}\varphi(-1)) + \int_{-1}^0 \hat{A}_2(\theta)\dot{\varphi}(\theta)d\theta + \int_{-1}^0 \hat{A}_3(\theta)\varphi(\theta)d\theta$, where $\hat{A}_2(\cdot), \hat{A}_3(\cdot)$ are $(n \times n)$ -matrices with component from $L_2[-1, 0]$ and Q_1 is a $(n \times n)$ matrix. Let us observe that $\varphi(-1) = \int_{-1}^0 \theta\dot{\varphi}(\theta)d\theta + \int_{-1}^0 \varphi(\theta)d\theta$, $\varphi(0) = \int_{-1}^0 (\theta+1)\dot{\varphi}(\theta)d\theta + \int_{-1}^0 \varphi(\theta)d\theta$ and denote $A_2(\theta) = \hat{A}_2(\theta) + (\theta+1)Q_1 - \theta Q_1 A_{-1}$ and $A_3(\theta) = \hat{A}_3(\theta) + Q_1 - Q_1 A_{-1}$. Then, the operator Q may be written as $Q(y, \varphi(\cdot)) = \int_{-1}^0 A_2(\theta)\dot{\varphi}(\theta)d\theta + \int_{-1}^0 A_3(\theta)\varphi(\theta)d\theta$. Hence \mathcal{P}_0 describes all the operators from $\mathcal{L}(X_{\mathcal{A}}, \mathbb{C}^n)$.

Assume that λ_0 is an eigenvalue of \mathcal{A} , x_0 is a corresponding eigenvector, and that λ_0 does not belong to the spectrum of $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$, then we have

$$x_0 + (\tilde{\mathcal{A}} - \lambda_0 I)^{-1} \mathcal{B}_0 \mathcal{P}_0 x_0 = 0. \quad (4)$$

Let us notice that $v_0 = \mathcal{P}_0 x_0 \neq 0$, because $\lambda_0 \notin \sigma(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})$. Then applying the operator \mathcal{P}_0 to the left hand side of (4) we get $v_0 + \mathcal{P}_0(\tilde{\mathcal{A}} - \lambda_0 I)^{-1} \mathcal{B}_0 v_0 = 0$. This equality means that λ_0 is a point of singularity of the matrix-valued function $F(\lambda) = I + \mathcal{P}_0(\tilde{\mathcal{A}} - \lambda_0 I)^{-1} \mathcal{B}_0$ and v_0 is a vector degenerating $F(\lambda_0)$ from the right. Hence, there exists a nonzero vector w_0 degenerating this matrix from the left. One can obtain the following

Proposition 2.1 *Let λ_0 do not belong to $\sigma(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})$. Then the pair (λ_0, w_0) , $w_0 \in \mathbb{C}^n$, $w_0 \neq 0$, satisfies the spectral equation*

$$w_0^* F(\lambda_0) = 0. \quad (5)$$

if and only if λ_0 is a root of the characteristic equation $\det \Delta(\lambda) = 0$ and w_0^ is a row-vector degenerating $\Delta(\lambda_0)$ from the left, i.e. $w_0^* \Delta(\lambda_0) = 0$.*

Thus, one can consider the equation $w^* F(\lambda) = 0$ as an equation whose roots (λ_0, w_0) describe all eigenvalues and (left) eigenvectors of the characteristic matrix $\Delta(\lambda)$. We assume that the matrix A_{-1} has simple nonzero eigenvalues μ_1, \dots, μ_n . In this case [4,5] the spectrum $\sigma(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})$ consists of simple eigenvalues which we denote by $\tilde{\lambda}_k^m = \ln |\mu_m| + i(\text{Arg } \mu_m + 2\pi k)$, $m = 1, \dots, n$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, and of the zero-eigenvalue $\tilde{\lambda}_0 = 0$. Let $\Phi = \{\tilde{\varphi}_k^m\} \cup \{\tilde{\varphi}_j^0\}$ be a family of almost normed eigenvectors corresponding to the eigenvalues $\{\tilde{\lambda}_k^m, \tilde{\lambda}_0\}$ which forms a Riesz basis in the space M_2 . Denote by $\Psi = \{\tilde{\psi}_k^m\} \cup \{\tilde{\psi}_j^0\}$ the bi-orthogonal basis to Φ . Let w_0^* and λ_0 be as in (5) and $z_j, j = 1, \dots, n$ be the eigenvectors of the matrix A_{-1}^* and let the representation of w_0^* in the basis z_j be as follows: $w_0^* = \sum_j \alpha_j z_j^*$. Thus, the condition for a pair (λ_0, w_0) to satisfy the spectral equation, i.e. Proposition 2.1, can be rewritten in the following form.

Proposition 2.2 *Let λ_0 do not belong to $\sigma(\tilde{\mathcal{A}})$. Then the pair (λ_0, w_0) , $w_0 \in \mathbb{C}^n$, $w_0 \neq 0$, satisfies equation (5) if and only if*

$$\alpha_m = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_j \frac{p_{k,m}^j}{\tilde{\lambda}_k^m - \lambda_0}, \quad m = 1, \dots, n, \quad (6)$$

where for any m, j , the sequences $\{p_{k,m}^j\}$ satisfy $\sum_k |p_{k,m}^j|^2 < \infty$.

3 Conditions for spectral assignment

We confine ourselves to the assignability problem of simple eigenvalues for the operator \mathcal{A} , this is guaranteed by the assumption that the matrix A_{-1} has distinct eigenvalues (see [5]). Then one can enumerate those eigenvalues as $\{\lambda_k^m\} \cup \{\lambda_j^0\}$, for $m, j = 1, \dots, n$; $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, where the sequence $\{\lambda_k^m\}$ satisfies

$$\sum_{k,m} |\lambda_k^m - \tilde{\lambda}_k^m|^2 < \infty. \quad (7)$$

Let the vectors w_k^m be such that $(w_k^m)^* \Delta(\lambda_k^m) = 0$, $m = 1, \dots, n$; $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then one can also show that

$$\sum_k \|w_k^m - z_m\|^2 < \infty, \quad m = 1, \dots, n. \quad (8)$$

For all indices $m_0 = 1, \dots, n$; $k_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$, consider decompositions $(w_{k_0}^{m_0})^* = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_{jm_0}^{k_0} z_j^*$. Then condition (8) for $w_{k_0}^{m_0}$ is equivalent to

$$\sum_{k_0} |\alpha_{mm_0}^{k_0}|^2 < \infty, \quad m \neq m_0, \quad \sum_{k_0} |\alpha_{mm_0}^{k_0} - 1|^2 < \infty, \quad m, m_0 = 1, \dots, n. \quad (9)$$

We now consider the space ℓ_2 of infinite sequences (columns) indexed as $\{a_k\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}$ with a scalar product defined by $\langle \{a_k\}, \{b_k\} \rangle = \sum_k a_k \bar{b}_k$. One can also see that $\{\frac{1}{\lambda_k^m - \lambda_{k_0}^{m_0}}, k \in \mathbb{Z}\} \in \ell_2$ for all $m, m_0 = 1, \dots, n$; $k_0 \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then, putting $\lambda_0 = \lambda_{k_0}^{m_0}$ and $w_0 = w_{k_0}^{m_0}$ in the equations (6), we obtain

$$\alpha_{m,m_0}^{k_0} = \sum_{j=1}^n \alpha_{jm_0}^{k_0} \langle \{\frac{1}{\lambda_k^m - \lambda_{k_0}^{m_0}}\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}, \{\overline{p_{k,m}^j}\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \rangle, \quad m, m_0 = 1, \dots, n, k_0 \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (10)$$

Hence, the assignment problem is equivalent to the existence of an infinite vector $\{p_{k,m}^j\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \in \ell_2$ satisfying the system of equation (10).

Consider the following infinite matrices

$$S_{mm_0} = \left\{ \frac{1}{\lambda_k^m - \lambda_{k_0}^{m_0}} \right\}_{k_0, k \in \mathbb{Z}}, \quad \Lambda_m = \text{diag} \{ \tilde{\lambda}_k^m - \lambda_k^m \}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}}, \quad m, m_0 = 1, \dots, n.$$

The solvability of equations (10) is based on the following result.

Lemma 3.1 1. For $m \neq m_0$ the infinite matrices S_{mm_0} represent linear bounded operators from $\mathcal{L}(\ell_2)$ with bounded inverses.
2. $\Lambda_m S_{mm}$ is a bounded operator from $\mathcal{L}(\ell_2)$ and has a bounded inverse.

The proof of Lemma 3.1 uses the Levin's Theorem on the property for a family of exponentials to be a Riesz basis in L^2 (see for example [1]).
Now we are ready to present our main results on the spectral assignment.

Theorem 3.2 *Let μ_1, \dots, μ_n be different nonzero complex numbers and z_1, \dots, z_n be n -dimensional linear independent vectors. Denote*

$$\tilde{\lambda}_k^m = \ln |\mu_m| + i(\operatorname{Arg} \mu_m + 2\pi k), \quad m = 1, \dots, n, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Let us consider an arbitrary sequence of different complex numbers $\{\lambda_k^m\}_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{Z} \\ 1 \leq m \leq n}}$ such that

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} |\lambda_k^m - \tilde{\lambda}_k^m|^2 < \infty, \quad m = 1, \dots, n,$$

and an arbitrary sequence of vectors $\{\hat{w}_k^m\}_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{Z} \\ 1 \leq m \leq n}}$ satisfying

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \|\hat{w}_k^m - z_m\|^2 < \infty, \quad m = 1, \dots, n.$$

Let, in addition, the complex numbers λ_j^0 , $j = 1, \dots, n$ be different from each other and different from λ_k^m and let d_j^0 , $j = 1, \dots, n$ be nonzero vectors. Then, for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exist $N > 0$, a sequence $\{w_k^m\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}, m=1, \dots, n}$:

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \|w_k^m - \hat{w}_k^m\|^2 < \varepsilon, \quad w_k^m = \hat{w}_k^m, \quad |k| > N, \quad m = 1, \dots, n,$$

and a choice of matrices $A_{-1}, A_2(\theta), A_3(\theta)$ such that:

- i) all the numbers $\{\lambda_k^m\}_{k \in \mathbb{Z}, m=1, \dots, n} \cup \{\lambda_j^0\}_{j=1, \dots, n}$ are the simple roots of the characteristic equation $\det \Delta(\lambda) = 0$;*
- ii) $w_k^{m*} \Delta(\lambda_k^m) = 0$, $m = 1, \dots, n$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $w_j^{0*} \Delta(\lambda_j^0) = 0$.*

As a possible application of this result, we can precise a condition for the solvability of a vector moment problem, namely by giving the time (or interval) of solvability.

Remark 3.3 *Consider the following moment problem: find the function $u_i(t)$, $i = 1, \dots, r$ such that*

$$s_k^m = \int_0^T e^{\lambda_k^m t} (b_{k,m}^1 u_1(t) + \dots + b_{k,m}^r u_r(t)) dt, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}, m = 1, \dots, n, \quad (11)$$

for a given sequence of complex numbers s_k^m . We assume that the sequence λ_k^m verifies the conditions of Theorem 3.2 and $b_{k,m}^j$, $j = 1, \dots, r$ are such that

$$\sum_{j,k,m} |b_{k,m}^j - b_m^j|^2 < \infty, \quad \sum_j |b_m^j| > 0, \quad \sum_j |b_{k,m}^j| > 0, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z}, m = 1, \dots, n.$$

There exists $T_0 > 0$ such that this moment problem is solvable for any sequence $\{s_k^m\} \in \ell_2$ if $T > T_0$ and not solvable for $T < T_0$.

Such a number is called the critical number of solvability (cf. for example [1]). In [3] it was shown that the critical number of solvability T_0 equals $n_1(A_{-1}, B)$, i.e. the controllability index of the couple (A_{-1}, B) , which is the minimal integer such that $\text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} B & A_{-1}B & \dots & A_{-1}^{n_1-1}B \end{pmatrix} = n$, where $B = \{b_m^j\}_{m=1, \dots, n}^{j=1, \dots, r}$ and $A_{-1} = \text{diag}(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_n)$, under the assumption that this problem of moments corresponds to a controllability problem of a controlled system of neutral type $\dot{z}(t) - A_{-1}\dot{z}(t-1) = Lz(t+\cdot) + Bu(t)$. Theorem 3.2 allows to eliminate the last assumption.

Acknowledgements

This work was partially supported by Polish National Science Center grant N N514 238 438.

References

- [1] Sergei A. Avdonin and Sergei A. Ivanov, *Families of exponentials*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1995.
- [2] Jack K. Hale and Sjoerd M. Verduyn Lunel. *Introduction to functional-differential equations*, volume 99 of *Applied Mathematical Sciences*. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1993.
- [3] Rabah R., Sklyar G. M. *The Analysis of Exact Controllability of Neutral-Type Systems by the Moment Problem Approach*, SIAM J. Control Optim. Vol. 46, Issue 6 (2007), 2148–2181.
- [4] R. Rabah, G. M. Sklyar, and A. V. Rezounenko, *Generalized Riesz basis property in the analysis of neutral type systems*, C. R. Math. Acad. Sci. Paris **337** (2003), no. 1, 19–24.
- [5] R. Rabah, G. M. Sklyar, and A. V. Rezounenko, *Stability analysis of neutral type systems in Hilbert space*, J. Differential Equations **214** (2005), no. 2, 391–428.
- [6] R. Rabah, G. M. Sklyar, and P. Yu. Barkhayev, *Stability and stabilizability of mixed retarded-neutral type systems*, ESAIM: Control, Optimisation and Calculus of Variations, **18** (2012), 656–692.